

REMARKS/DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-14, 17-19 and 22-28 without disclaimer of the underlying subject matter or prejudice against future prosecution. Applicants amend claim 16, and add new claims 30-53. Accordingly, claims 16 and 30-53 remain pending in the application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging the claim for priority and receipt of certified copies of the priority documents, and for indicating that the drawings are acceptable.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the following Remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Suzuki U.S. Patent 5,054,077 ("Suzuki") in view of Weber U.S. Patent 5,054,077 ("Weber").

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is patentable over the cited art for at least the following reasons.

Among other things, the remote control unit of claim 16 includes a user-operable control device which responds to a user control to toggle among a plurality of pre-set relative sound level ratios between the main channel (MC) and the at least one auxiliary channel (AC1).

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Suzuki, nor Weber, or any combination thereof suggests a remote control unit that includes such a user-operable control device.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is patentable over the cited art.

NEW CLAIMS 30-55

Claims 30-31

Claims 30-31 depend from claim 16 and are deemed to be patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 16, and for the

various novel features recited therein.

Claim 32

Among other things, the device of claim 32 includes a selection device adapted to receive a user selection signal and in response thereto to select one of the first and second audio signals as a main audio signal; and to select another of the first and second audio signals as an auxiliary audio signal, and an automatic adjustment unit adapted to receive the auxiliary audio signal and to receive an auxiliary level control signal derived from the main audio signal, and in response thereto to automatically adjust a level of the auxiliary audio signal to have a particular ratio with respect to a level of the main audio signal.

Applicants respectfully submit that Weber does not disclose a device including this combination of features, and in particular does not disclose a user selection signal, or a selection device that receives such a user selection signal and in response thereto selects one of the audio signals to be the main audio signal.

Claims 33-45

Claims 33-45 depend from claim 32 and are deemed patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 32, and for various novel features recited therein.

Claim 46

Among other things, the method of claim 46 includes connecting a selected one of the first and second audio signals to a main audio adjustment unit, and connecting a non-selected one of the first and second audio signals to an auxiliary audio adjustment unit.

Applicants respectfully submit that Weber does not disclose any method including this combination of features.

Claims 47-54

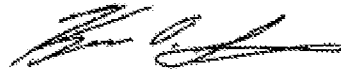
Claims 47-53 depend from claim 46 and are deemed patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 46, and for various novel features recited therein.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing explanations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and reexamine the present application, allow claims 16 and 30-53 and pass the application to issue. In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Kenneth D. Springer (Reg. No. 39,843) at (571) 283.0720 to discuss these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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